

Appendix table 7-29.

Public assessment of global warming: 2001
(Percentages)

Characteristic	2001
All adults (number = 1,574)	
Very serious	53
Somewhat serious	33
Not a serious problem	10
Not sure/refused	4
Male (number = 751)	
Very serious	55
Somewhat serious	32
Not a serious problem	12
Not sure/refused	2
Female (number = 823)	
Very serious	52
Somewhat serious	34
Not a serious problem	9
Not sure/refused	5
Less than high school graduate (number = 116)	
Very serious	51
Somewhat serious	31
Not a serious problem	10
Not sure/refused	8
High school graduate (number = 834)	
Very serious	53
Somewhat serious	33
Not a serious problem	11
Not sure/refused	3
Baccalaureate and higher (number = 614)	
Very serious	56
Somewhat serious	34
Not a serious problem	9
Not sure/refused	2
Attentive public to science and technology^a (number = 195)	
Very serious	62
Somewhat serious	24
Not a serious problem	12
Not sure/refused	2

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue area but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTES: A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. Responses are to the following question: Do you think that the possibility of global warming should be treated as a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a serious problem?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.